AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, further comprising the act of receiving information representing a television signal provider that is to broadcast the one or more television programs to be recorded by the interactive television system.

4.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising, prior to the act of receiving information representing a television signal provider, the act of transmitting information identifying a plurality of television signal providers that are capable of broadcasting television programs to the interactive television system.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the server transmits the recording instructions through the Internet.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule includes a time, date and duration of a plurality of television programs, including the particular television program to be recorded.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule includes transmission source information that identifies at least one of a television broadcast channel, a cable channel, and a satellite channel.

8-14.   (Cancelled).

15.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 44, further comprising the acts of:

prior to sending the first request, receiving user input at the computing system selecting a television signal provider associated with a location of the interactive television system; and

transmitting information representing the selection of the television signal provider to the server.

16-36. (Cancelled).

37.   (Previously Presented) In a network server that communicates over a network with a recording apparatus that is configured to record television programs, a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the recording apparatus, the method comprising the acts of:

storing a programming schedule at a server;

storing recording control information at the server, the recording control information including at least one record command that is transmittable over a network to a recording apparatus that is configured to record television programming;

the server receiving a user request, which is transmitted to the server through the Internet, for a webpage containing the programming schedule and that identifies one or more television programs;

in response to the user request, the server providing a user Internet access to the programming schedule in the form of a navigable webpage and from which a particular television program can be selected by the user for recording;

receiving, at the server, a user selection of the particular television program to be recorded, the selection of the particular television program to be recorded being made from the navigable webpage provided to the user through the Internet; and

in response to the particular television program being selected for recording, the server transmitting recording control information to the recording apparatus over the network, the recording control information comprising recording instructions that are configured to cause the recording apparatus to record the particular television program and such that the recording apparatus will thereafter be set up to record the particular television program, and wherein the recording instructions are transmitted to the recording apparatus from the server through at least one of a television signal and the Internet.

38.   (Cancelled).

39.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording apparatus comprises a VCR.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions include the time, date and duration of the particular television program to be recorded.

41-43. (Cancelled).

44.   (Previously Presented) In a recording system that is configured to record television programs and that is communicably connectable to a server through a network, a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the recording system, the method comprising the acts of:

sending a request from the recording system to the server for a program schedule that identifies television programs that can be received and recorded by the recording system ;

receiving, at the recording system, the program schedule from the server through the Internet and in response to the request, the program schedule being provided as a webpage;

displaying, at the recording system, the program schedule after it is received from the server;

receiving, at the recording system, a user selection from the program schedule of a particular television program to be recorded;

sending a request from the recording system to the server for the selected and particular television program to be recorded;

receiving, at the recording system, and directly in response to the request for the particular television program to be recorded, recording instructions that will cause the recording system to record the particular television program, wherein the recording instructions from the server are received by the recording system through at least one of a television signal and the Internet.

45.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the recording instructions include a record command for the recording system.

46.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 45, wherein the recording system includes a VCR.

47.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the recording instructions include at least one of the time, date, duration and tuning instructions corresponding to the particular television program to be recorded.

48-63. (Cancelled).

64.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the request for a programming schedule is received at an Internet web site through the use of a conventional Web browser.

65.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule is provided through a web page of the server that is customized for the user.

66.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein prior to providing the programming schedule, user input is received at the web page identifying a television programming provider.

67.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 76, wherein access to the programming homepage is accessible only after screening a user password.

68.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions are embedded in and received with the television signal.

69.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming information is made available to the user based on a determination of at least one of a caller ID, area code and phone number of the user.

70.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule is based on determining a locality of a user's modem.

71.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 70, wherein the locality of the user's modem is determined according to a caller ID.

72.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 69, wherein the locality of the user's modem is determined according to a phone number.

73.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein subsequent to downloading recording instructions, the server transmits data comprising an end-of VCR control information to the computing system.

74.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 68, wherein the recording instructions are inserted in special television channel.

75.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 68, wherein the recording instructions are received as a binary ASCII-format character string that is assigned specific control functions.

76.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, further comprising:

receiving, at the server, a request from a computing system to access a programming homepage;

in response to the request to access the programming homepage, providing the computing system access to the programming homepage, the programming homepage identifying a plurality of television signal providers;

receiving, at the server, a selection of an appropriate one of the plurality of television signal providers; and

in response to the computing system selecting the appropriate television signal provider, and upon receiving a request from the computing system for a corresponding program schedule, the server providing the programming schedule.

77.   (Cancelled).

78. (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions are received through the Internet.

79. (New) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the method further includes the server sending data comprising about to send VCR control information prior to actually transmitting the recording control information.

80. (New) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording control information comprises VCR control information.